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Selected Letters of Pliny. Edited by G. B. Allen.
Oxford: The Clarendon Press (1915). Pp. 149.
2s. 6 d.

This little book consists of 35 pages of Introduction, 53 pages of Latin text, and 55 pages of commentary.

The pages of the Introduction are distributed among the following topics: The Letters of Pliny; Life of Pliny; Historical Outline: Nero to Trajan; Pliny the Elder; Pliny and his Friends; Pliny's Profession; Pliny's Tastes and Views; Pliny's Province; Pliny and the Christians. Of these topics, the third, Historical Outline: Nero to Trajan, is ill proportioned and its bearing upon the life of Pliny is not adequately indicated. In view of the age of the students who read the Letters of Pliny in American Colleges, such a synopsis might well be omitted and the subject-matter might well be consulted in better form in any one of a number of handbooks. In the section on Pliny and his Friends, the emphasis should be changed by featuring the more important figures and by relegating the discussion of Corellius Rufus, Verginius Rufus, and Vestricius Spurinna largely, if not entirely, to the notes on the appropriate letters (1.12; 2.1; 3.1). In other respects the Introduction is satisfactory and is attractively written.

The amount of text (the text is that of Kukula² [Leipzig, 1912]) is so meager that it affords no opportunity for the exercise of personal preference in the choice of epistles. The letters indispensable in any selection are here and fill practically all the allotted space.

The fault with the Notes is their brevity. Pliny invites extended commentary (see *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* 6.14), but in these notes interpretation and exposition are at times even vague or insufficient from overmuch compression. Still, I have found no absolute misstatements in the twenty pages of the commentary which I used as a test. The author has followed good authorities and has attained the necessary accuracy.

For classes desiring a short selection of the Letters at a moderate cost this book can be recommended.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. WILLIAM STUART MESSER.

CICERO, IN CATILINAM 2.4

Our texts regularly punctuate as follows:

Utinam ille omnis secum suas copias eduxisset!
Tongilium mihi eduxit, quem amare in praetexta
cooperat, Publicium et Minucium, quorum aes alienum
contractum in popina nullum motum afferre poterat;
reliquit quos viros, quanto aere alieno, quam valentis,
quam nobilis!

The phrasing here is clumsy, unbalanced, ugly; there is no vigor in the passage.

Why not punctuate as follows?

Tongilium mihi eduxit . . . cooperat; Publicium
et Minucium . . . reliquit. Quos viros! quanto
aere alieno! quam valentis! quam nobilis!

In the passage as thus pointed we have a perfectly balanced period, a typical case of adversative asyndeton, and phrasing with the vigor that is so conspicuously lacking in the passage as it is ordinarily printed.

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CLYDE R. JEFFORDS.

AN ANCIENT WAY TO CONSERVE FOOD

Certain contemporary conditions give a peculiar interest to a story told by Herodotus 1.94:

'The Lydians claimed that they had invented all kinds of games. Early in their history, there was a terrible famine in Lydia, which the Lydians continued to endure for some time. But, after a while, since the scarcity of food continued, they tried all kinds of remedies, and everybody took his turn at suggesting something different. It was then that different games were invented, such as dice, and handball, and indeed all the others, save chess, of which the Lydians do not claim to be the inventors. They devised the games to stave off hunger; their plan was to play all one day, without looking for food at all, and the next day to leave their games and secure food. They went on in this way for 18 years'.

MUHLBERG COLLEGE,
ALLENTOWN, PENN.

ROBERT C. HORN.

THE NEW YORK CLASSICAL CLUB

The High School Teachers' Association of New York City and The Classical Forum of the New York Classical Club had a joint meeting in the auditorium of the Washington Irving High School on Saturday morning, December 8, the subject of which was The Best Training for Vocational Success. The first speaker was Dr. Albert S. Perkins, of the Dorchester High School, Boston, whose interesting experiment in the adaptation of the study of Latin to commercial courses is well known. His paper on this occasion was a very effective presentation of his ideas on the subject, and evoked some interesting responses in the discussion which followed.

The other speaker on the program was Professor Franklin H. Giddings, of Columbia University, who in characteristically downright and entertaining fashion insisted upon the utilities of the study of the Classics. "I'm tired", he said "of the people that are tired of discipline"; and this was but one of the epigrams which vigorously served to orient his point of view.

Among the speakers who took part in the discussion were Principal Wolfson, of the High School of Commerce, Dr. Feldman, Principal of the Curtis High School, Dr. Fairley, Principal of the Commercial High School of Brooklyn, and Principal Zabriskie of the Washington Irving High School.

ALLAN P. BALL, *Censor*.

VERGIL, AENEID 1. 58-59

In the discussion of this passage in *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* 11.13 there is evidently a misprint: for "future more vivid" read 'future less vivid'.

Reference might have been made, by way of illustration, to conditions of comparison, which are less vivid future in Latin, but contrary to fact in English.

PHILLIPS ACADEMY,
ANDOVER, MASS.

B. M. ALLEN.

THE NEW YORK CLASSICAL CLUB

The second meeting of The New York Classical Club for the year 1917-1918 will be held in the Students Building, Barnard College, Broadway and 117th Street, New York City, on Saturday, February 9, at noon, sharp. Dr. Henry Van Dyke will speak on The Undying Elements of Greek Poetry, and Dr. Walter Damrosch will discuss Music for the Greek Drama. Tickets for the luncheon can be procured from Dr. W. F. Tibbetts, Curtis High School, New Brighton, Staten Island, N. Y.